Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method in a data processing system for providing a consulting assessment environment, the method comprising:

determining an intended use for the consulting assessment environment, wherein the intended use is one of defining assessment business logic and conducting a self-assessment, wherein defining assessment business logic is performed by a consultant, wherein conducting a self-assessment is performed by the consultant or a client, and wherein assessment data is stored separately from assessment business logic;

responsive to determining that the intended use is defining assessment business logic, defining a data template, an assessment framework template, a suggested actions template, and a report template to provide the assessment business logic for multiple types of assessments for assessing businesses, wherein proprietary information and trade secrets are encoded into the data template, the assessment framework template, the suggested actions template, and the report template, and wherein the proprietary information and the trade secrets of the consulting assessment environment are accessible to the consultant and are made inaccessible to clients using a hiding feature;

responsive to determining that the intended used is conducting a self-assessment, receiving data about a business through a questionnaire, wherein the questionnaire is defined by [[a]] the data template encoded with business-related domain knowledge of business practices;

responsive to receiving data about the business, computing at least one assessment score based on formulas and logic rules encoded in [[an]] the assessment framework template;

responsive to computing the at least one assessment score, determining an appropriate action based on the at least one assessment score and [[a]] the suggested actions template encoded with business-related domain knowledge that defines actions to achieve desired states of businesses; and

reporting results <u>of the assessment data</u> based on the at least one assessment score and the appropriate action in accordance with [[a]] <u>the</u> report template, wherein <u>the data template,</u> the assessment framework template, and the suggested actions template encode business-related domain knowledge including at least one of best practices, business consultant expertise, and business goals, and wherein <u>the</u> proprietary information and <u>the</u> trade secrets of the consulting assessment environment are hidden from <u>the client</u> ~~clients~~.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining a current state of the business based on the data;

identifying a desired state for the business using the assessment framework template and the suggested actions template; and

performing a gap analysis between the current state of the business and the desired state of the business to determine the appropriate action to achieve the desired state for the business.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

identifying benefits and risks based on the at least one assessment score and the appropriate action.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

consolidating portions of the results together for further analysis.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing an interface for [[a]] <u>the</u> client to conduct [[a]] <u>the</u> self-assessment to gather the data about the business, wherein the data is used to determine a current state of the business, and wherein automated data synthesis is performed to relate the current state of the business to a desired state in real time.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data template includes at least one of interview questions, weighing factors, desired states, benefit descriptions, risk descriptions, suggested actions, cost areas, and terminology.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the assessment framework template includes at least one of scoring information, calculations, suggested actions logic, benefit and risk logic, user feedback, and user input.

8-20.   (Canceled)